

Message Text

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 OIC-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251412

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, FAO, VN

SUBJECT: VIETNAM: FAO AND WFP

REF: (A) STATE 196882, (B) STATE 206092, (C) ROME 16062)

(D) ROME 16210

1. RECENT FAO INVITATIONS TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM (SRV) (REFTEL C AND D) COULD BE INTERPRETED AS
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INDICATING THAT FAO RECOGNIZES THE SRV AS THE LEGITIMATE

SUCCESSOR STATE TO SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH PRIOR TO UNIFICATION WAS A MEMBER OF FAO. THE USG FEELS FAO HAS NO BASIS FOR SUCH A DECISION. AT FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND FAR EAST (MANILA, AUGUST 5-13, 1976) SRV WAS SEATED AS AN OBSERVER AFTER FAO DG SAOUMA HAD PRIVATELY STATED THAT THE QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE BROUGHT OFFICIALLY TO THE FAO CONFERENCE WHICH NEXT MEETS IN NOVEMBER 1977. U.S. POSITION CONCERNING VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP IN FAO REMAINS AS STATED PARA 2 REFTEL A AND REFTEL B). WE THEREFORE WILL REGARD FAO INVITATIONS AS CONTINUATION OF FAO TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OF INVITING STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN CERTAIN FAO MEETINGS PRIOR TO GOVERNING BODY CONSIDERATION OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP.

2. IT IS THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE SRV IS INELIGIBLE FOR FAO ASSISTANCE UNTIL SRV MEMBERSHIP IN FAO IS RESOLVED AT THE 1977 CONFERENCE. ASSISTANCE THROUGH FAO'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM WOULD CAUSE US PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY.

3. WE DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH THE CFA 1 DECISION LAST APRIL TO APPROVE FOUR PROJECTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT DO QUESTION WHETHER IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THE WFP TO SIGN LETTERS OF READINESS WITH THE SRV (VERSUS SOUTH VIETNAM) UNDER G.R. 18(A)(1). WE HAVE NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT ADDITIONAL WFP ASSISTANCE TO THE COMBINED VIETNAM SHOULD NOT BE CONTEMPLATED UNTIL THE SRV IS LEGALLY SEATED AS A MEMBER OF THE UN OR FAO.

4. U.S. REP SHOULD DISCUSS ABOVE VIEWS WITH FAO DG AND WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. FODAG SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE DRAWN INTO SPECULATIVE CONVERSATION RANGING BEYOND THESE VIEWS. THE REACTIONS OF BOTH EXECUTIVE HEADS AT AN EARLY DATE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. ROBINSON

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